

Proposed Changes to the Ordinance

Sec. 18-24. Keeping of Chickens.

- (a) The maximum number of chickens allowed is six (6) per tract of land regardless of how many dwelling units are on the tract.
- (b) Only female chickens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.
- (d) Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
- (e) Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, neat and sanitary condition at all times.
- (f) Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats.
- (g) Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
 - 1. A henhouse or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire of less than one (1) inch openings.
 - 2. The materials used in making a henhouse or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
 - 3. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens shall only be located to the rear of the dwelling or other main structure and may be located in the rear yard as required by the zoning code.
 - 4. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must be located at least ten (10) feet from the property line and at least twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school or place of business.
- (h) Any enclosed chicken pen shall consist of sturdy wire or wooden fencing. The pen must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing.
- (i) Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken related substances shall not be detectable at the property boundaries.
- (j) All uses shall operate in accordance with the noise standards contained in *Section 6-1500 the city Zoning Ordinance*.

(k) The chicken owner shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by an animal control officer.

(l) Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators.

(m) The chicken owner must provide for the storage and removal of chicken manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. No more than three (3) cubic feet of manure shall be stored. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. The henhouse, chicken tractor, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

(n) No dog or cat which kills a chicken will, for that reason alone, be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal.

(o) Slaughter may occur for personal use provided that it is conducted in a sanitary manner, does not generate noise that creates a nuisance, and is not visible from adjacent properties or any public area or right-of-way.

(p) It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or leaseholder of property to allow chickens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.

(q) Any violation of this article that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of the city.

(r) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this article.

(s) Each day that a violation of this article continues is a separate offense.

(t) All other City Codes shall apply.

(u) Performance standards for keeping of six (6) or fewer chickens. Keeping of Chickens as defined shall follow the regulations of this Article except as modified herein. The property owner shall file an application with Director of Building Development Services to keep six or fewer chickens. A no or minimal cost permit is required to be issued. The property owner has the responsibility to follow all performance standards. Keeping of six or fewer chickens shall adhere to all performance standards and shall not create any adverse impact on adjoining properties. The Director of Building Services is authorized to issue a cease and desist order to any party violating the performance standards listed heretofore along with any other enforcement measures available to the Director of Building Services or the City.